

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner noted that claims 1-18 were pending in the application and the Examiner rejected all claims. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 18 have been amended. Thus, claims 1-18 remain pending in the application. The Examiner's rejections are traversed below.

In item 2 on pages 2 and 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner noted that the Applicants' prior arguments for patentability were unconvincing but advised that the amendments specified on page 3 of the Office Action would overcome the prior art.

By this Amendment, claims 1 and 18 have been amended substantially in accordance with the changes proposed by the Examiner. Further, while the Examiner states that these changes would overcome the prior art, the Applicants submit that these changes do not narrow the scope of the claims within the meaning of the Festo case. In view of the fact that these amendments have been made, it is submitted that claims 1-18 are now in condition for allowance.

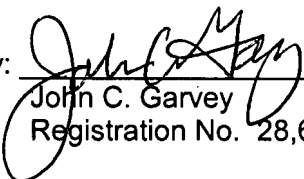
In view of the fact that the Applicants have substantially adopted the changes proposed by the Examiner, it is submitted that these amendments are suitable for entry under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116. Entry of these amendments and an early notice of allowance are earnestly submitted.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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